

Case 3289***Emphania* Erichson, 1847 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of usage by designation of *Heptomera metallica* Blanchard, 1850 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, in relation to Article 67.2.2 of the Code, is to conserve the last 150 years' usage of the name *Emphania* Erichson, 1847 for a group of scarab beetles (family SCARABAEIDAE) by designating *Heptomera metallica* Blanchard, 1850 (the senior subjective synonym of *Emphania chloris* Burmeister, 1855) as the type species. The genus *Emphania* was originally established without any included nominal species. The first species were subsequently included in *Emphania* by Blanchard in 1850 and it is proposed (contrary to Article 67.2.2 of the Code) that in the interests of nomenclatural stability none of these is designated as type species. The original specimen on which Erichson based his description of *Emphania* was studied by Burmeister in 1855, and described as the new nominal species *Emphania chloris*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; SCARABAEIDAE; *Emphania*; *Emphania metallica*; *Emphania chloris*; scarab beetles.

1. The genus *Emphania* Erichson, 1847 (p. 695) was established without any included nominal species, but with a short, significant morphological description and distributional data relating to the island of Madagascar.

2. Blanchard (1850, p. 80) was the first author who subsequently used the name *Emphania* with reference to Erichson (1847) as a 'divisio' within the genus *Omaloplia* and he included 17 new species.

3. The original specimen, on which Erichson's description was based, was studied and described as the new nominal species *Emphania chloris* by Burmeister (1855, p. 180). Based on the work by Brenske (1899, p. 238), who synonymized *Emphania chloris* with *Heptomera metallica* Blanchard, 1850 (p. 89) and considered the genus to be monospecific, the name *Emphania* has subsequently been understood in the sense of Burmeister (1855) and Brenske (1899), rather than the concept of Blanchard (1850). However, no type species has been formally designated.

4. Except for Lacordaire's (1856, p. 205) synonymizing of *Emphania* with *Serica* MacLeay, 1819, Moser (1911, p. 513), who described two additional species for the genus, and in the catalogue of Dalla Torre (1912, p. 39), the name *Emphania* has never been treated taxonomically again. Machatschke (1959, p. 744) mentioned *Emphania* in a systematic study of SERICINI, but without any attempt to place the genus taxonomically.

5. No taxon included by Blanchard (1850) in *Emphania* fits the original description of the genus by Erichson (1847, p. 695) or the subsequent understanding of the concept (see para. 3 above). The name *Emphania* Erichson would need to be redefined if any of the nominal species subsequently included by Blanchard were to be selected as the type species of *Emphania*. Type species designation of any of the species named by Blanchard (1850) under *Emphania* would affect the synonymy of five additional generic names: *Comaserica* Brenske, 1897; *Hyposerica* Brenske, 1897; *Maladera* Mulsant & Rey, 1871; *Neuroserica* Brenske, 1900 and *Tamnosserica* Brenske, 1899. Brenske (1897, 1899, 1900) used these genera for the 17 species described under '*Emphania*' by Blanchard (1850). All these nominal genera have been used as valid names since they were erected. However, for three of these genera a type species has not yet been designated.

6. Under Article 67.2.2, one of Blanchard's (1850) included species should be designated as type species. However, in order to conserve the current usage of the name *Emphania*, it is proposed that *Heptomera metallica* Blanchard, 1850 (the senior synonym of *Emphania chloris* Burmeister, 1855) be designated as the type species of *Emphania*. This is not an originally or first subsequently included nominal species and so this proposal requires action by the Commission to set aside the provisions of Article 67.2.2.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to set aside the provisions of Article 67.2.2 of the Code and to designate *Heptomera metallica* Blanchard, 1850 as the type species for the genus *Emphania* Erichson, 1847;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Emphania* Erichson, 1847 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Heptomera metallica* Blanchard, 1850;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *metallica* Blanchard, 1850 as published in the binomen *Heptomera metallica* (specific name of the type species of *Emphania* Erichson, 1847 and senior subjective synonym of *Emphania chloris* Burmeister, 1855).

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